

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle structural carrier assembly, comprising:
at least one support bracket adapted for direct connection to at least one frame rail;

a ~~unitary~~carrier member adapted for connection to the at least one support bracket, the at least one support bracket adapted to support the ~~unitary~~carrier member on the at least one frame rail; and

at least one attachment clip provided on one of the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket and adapted to engage the other of the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket to secure the connection therebetween.

2. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~unitary~~ carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of metal.

3. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of molded plastic material.

4. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of different materials.

5. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a cross frame mounted to an upper end of the ~~unitary~~carrier member by removable mechanical attachments.

PO-8124

-2-

6. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a cross frame fixedly attached to an upper end of the unitary carrier member.

7. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and locking tab, the locking tab being adapted to engage a mating opening formed in the at least one support bracket to connect the unitary carrier member to the at least one support bracket.

8. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 7, wherein the mating opening is a polygonal-shaped mating opening.

9. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 7, wherein the fulcrum cup is adapted to receive at least a portion of the at least one support bracket when the at least one attachment clip connects the unitary carrier member to the at least one support bracket.

10. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 7, wherein the fulcrum cup is substantially semicircular.

11. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the unitary carrier member further comprises at least one integrally formed attachment mount adapted to support at least one accessory.

12. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle structural carrier assembly, comprising:

at least one support bracket adapted for direct connection to at least one frame rail ~~extending from a motor vehicle body~~; and

a unitary carrier member having at least one attachment clip adapted for engagement with the at least one support bracket to secure a connection between the

PO-8124

-3-

unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket, the at least one support bracket capable of supporting the unitary carrier member on the at least one frame rail.

13. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, wherein the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of metal.

14. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, wherein the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of molded plastic material.

15. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, wherein the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket are formed of different materials.

16. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a cross frame mounted to an upper end of the unitary carrier member by removable mechanical attachments.

17. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a cross frame fixedly attached to an upper end of the unitary carrier member.

18. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and locking tab, the locking tab being adapted to engage a mating opening formed in the at least one support bracket to connect the unitary carrier member to the at least one support bracket.

19. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 18, wherein the mating opening is a polygonal-shaped mating opening.

20. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 18, wherein the fulcrum cup is adapted to receive at least a portion of the at least one support bracket when the at least one attachment clip connects the ~~unitary~~carrier member to the at least one support bracket.

21. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 18, wherein the fulcrum cup is substantially semicircular.

22. (Currently Amended) The structural carrier of Claim 12, wherein the ~~unitary~~carrier member further comprises at least one integrally formed attachment mount adapted to support at least one accessory of the motor vehicle.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a structural carrier assembly in a motor vehicle, comprising:

attaching at least one support bracket directly to at least one frame rail-~~extending from a motor vehicle body~~;

positioning a ~~unitary~~carrier member on the at least one support bracket; and
adjusting the ~~unitary~~carrier member such that at least one attachment clip provided on one of the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket engages the other of the ~~unitary~~ carrier member and the at least one support bracket, and secures a connection between the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising mounting a cross frame to an upper end of the ~~unitary~~carrier member by one of removable mechanical attachments and permanent welds.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and locking tab provided on one of the ~~unitary~~carrier member and the at least one support bracket, the locking tab

PO-8124

-5-

engaging a mating opening formed in the other of the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket when the unitary carrier member is rotated, and secures a connection between the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the mating opening is a polygonal-shaped mating opening.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the fulcrum cup aligns the unitary carrier member on the at least one support bracket when the unitary carrier member is rotated, such that the locking tab automatically engages the mating opening.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and locking tab provided on the unitary carrier member, the locking tab engaging a mating opening formed in the at least one support bracket when the unitary carrier member is rotated, and secures a connection between the unitary carrier member and the at least one support bracket.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the mating opening is a polygonal-shaped mating opening.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein the fulcrum cup aligns the unitary carrier member on the at least one support bracket when the unitary carrier member is rotated, such that the locking tab automatically engages the mating opening.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein the fulcrum cup receives at least a portion of the at least one support bracket when the at least one attachment clip connects the unitary carrier member to the at least one support bracket.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and mating opening and said at least one support bracket comprises a locking tab, said locking tab being adapted to engage the mating opening thereby forming said connection.

34. (Previously Presented) The structural carrier assembly of Claim 12, wherein the at least one attachment clip comprises an integral fulcrum cup and a mating opening and said support bracket comprises a locking tab, the locking tab being adapted to engage the mating opening thereby forming said connection.